

Slaying of Husband Justified

Verdict in Case Says That Mrs. Valien Killed Mate in Self-Defense—Lad Testifies. Says Act Followed Abuse

A coroner's jury, after inquiring into the death of Emil Valien, returned a verdict Saturday afternoon at the P. J. Stacks mortuary, finding that Mrs. Lillian Valien, wife, killed him in self-defense. The jury recommended that she be discharged from custody. She was given her freedom immediately after the inquest, but will appear in police court Monday, as a matter of form, to be discharged.

Mrs. Valien, a small woman, was perfectly calm as she told on the witness stand of the killing. They lived upstairs at 2732 Parker street. Her husband came home intoxicated at 2:30 Saturday morning, accompanied by Thomas Sedgwick, 3424 Decatur street. They are both iron molders and had been at a labor temple meeting.

Dragged Her From Bed. "He asked me why the fire was out and then demanded something to eat," said Mrs. Valien without a tremor. "He dragged me out of bed and struck me on both cheeks. That was nothing new; he's done it for years. The two children woke up and began to cry.

"Then I went to a closet and got the revolver. The time had come. He saw me with it and dared me to shoot. I pulled the trigger as he stood beside the bureau. He fell. "Benny, our boy who is 11, ran to his father and cried, 'daddy, daddy, why did you keep abusing mama?' Mrs. Valien who is 5, poor child, just cried.

Mrs. Valien said her husband had been corresponding with another woman for several years. She has one letter of 29 pages written by the woman to Valien, she said. "Thomas Chadwick, the man who came home with Valien and who fled after the shooting, testified that after he and Valien were at the labor temple meeting they drank about a pint of corn whiskey.

Benny, 11, testified, "When I woke up father was striking mother and when he hit her she asked if she didn't wish she could do it to him. Father has been drunk often."

Even Valien's mother, Mrs. Edith Valien, said her sister, Mrs. Clara Sager, sided with Mrs. Valien. "I have seen this woman in self-defense," said the mother-in-law. Rudolph Lefevre, Mrs. Valien's father, admitted that he gave his daughter the revolver some time ago.

Higher Prices Move Stored Crops at Crete

Crete, Neb., Feb. 25.—(Special.)—The sudden rise in the price of wheat and corn as well as hogs is bringing a great amount of produce from the farms to market. In this vicinity the farmers are well fixed financially, and when prices go too low to suit them they are in a position to hold on until the markets seem to be reasonably good. The past few months has witnessed a very little farm produce coming into this place, but the Crete mills have been paying a few cents over the market price for wheat and corn and as a result it has acted as a great inducement for the farmers to bring in the grain. Many farms around Crete now have two crops stored away and a substantial rise in prices will move the older crop.

Trainload of Cattle Sent to Coast From Scottsbluff

According to information received at the stockyards from Scottsbluff, a trainload of cattle were shipped to Los Angeles from the Scottsbluff stockyards last week. The shipment was made over the Burlington and it was estimated the trip would take 105 hours, the train being a special stock train with all necessary rights of way privileges. The cars of the train were decorated and each bore large banners on either side with inscription, "Pulpit led cattle from Scottsbluff to Los Angeles." Superintendent Miller of the Burlington was on hand to see the big train safely on its journey.

Huge Golden Eagle Caught in Trap Set for Hawks

Fairbury, Neb., Feb. 25.—(Special.)—A large golden eagle, weighing 10 pounds, measuring seven feet from tip to tip of the wings and three feet from tip of beak to end of tail was caught in a trap by R. L. Gray, 10 miles south of Fairbury. Mr. Gray had arranged several steel traps near a dead hen to catch chicken hawks.

Government Party Again Defeated in Great Britain

London, Feb. 25.—(By A. P.)—The government today suffered its third serious electoral defeat by election within a week at the election in the Bodwin division of Cornwall. It resulted in the election of Isaac Foot, independent liberal, who received 13,751 votes against 16,610 votes for Sir Frederick Poole, coalition unionist.

House Building Started

North Platte, Neb., Feb. 25.—(Special.)—Steel workers have arrived in the city and are placing in position the structural steel for Lincoln county's new court house. Much of the material for the building has been assembled and the contractors are planning to rush the work.

Tot Knew Mother Kept Gun



Mary Valien, 5, left, knew her mother, Lillian Valien, right, kept a gun under the little girl's hat in the closet, but didn't say anything because "Mamma told me not to," the child said, describing how her mother shot dead her father when he struck her at their home at 3 Saturday morning.



Trouble Looms in Negotiations Over Tangier

Conflict a Possibility Between France and Spain in Morocco; May Bring Tripartite Conference.

By GRAFTON WILCOX. Omaha He Leased Wire. Washington, Feb. 25.—Great Britain, according to advices reaching here from London, is bringing pressure to bear on France to secure its agreement to a tripartite conference with Spain for settlement of the Tangier question.

France, according to diplomatic information, is showing considerable hesitancy about participating in such a conference, realizing that it involves consequences of vast importance to its Mediterranean and near eastern policy. The tension between Great Britain and France over the Tangier question has been considerable, but that between France and Spain has recently grown to such proportions, especially as regards representatives of the two powers in the international zone, that there is now a general realization that diplomatic action is necessary to forestall the possibility of conflict.

Say France Favored. As the international zone of Tangier is under the sultan for purposes of administration and as the sultan is largely under French influence, because of the French protectorate over the greater part of Morocco, and Spain has recently grown to such proportions, especially as regards representatives of the two powers in the international zone, that there is now a general realization that diplomatic action is necessary to forestall the possibility of conflict.

Charges are made that the French have consistently supported the sultan's authority over the zone to a greater extent than is warranted by the convention of 1912, which established the zone, thus making a practical French administration of the practically international zone.

Information from French sources in Morocco indicates that the French hope for ultimate abandonment by the Spaniards of their zone in Morocco as a result of reverses in engagements with the natives. Such a result, it is said, would seriously affect control of the Straits of Gibraltar by Great Britain, which is largely responsible for establishment of the Spanish and the international zones. The main purpose of this was to create a buffer between French Morocco and the Straits.

British Fears Increased. The establishment of a French naval base on the Straits, obviously, would neutralize to a considerable extent the value of Gibraltar as a key position in the Mediterranean. British apprehensions, especially among (Turn to Page Two, Column Two.)

North Platte School Head Will Resign Post July 1

North Platte, Neb., Feb. 25.—(Special.)—C. L. Littell, for two years superintendent of the city schools, has tendered his resignation to become effective July 1. Mr. Littell has had several offers to engage in commercial lines, but has not yet decided whether to accept one of these or to take a post-graduate course at Harvard. For the past year North Platte has paid its superintendent \$3,600.

A New Serial

There is humor, adventure, danger, love, jealousy, intrigue and charming character portrayal in this BLUE RIBBON romance of the south.

The Wanted Man

By Harris Dickson. First installment in Next Sunday's Bee

Prisoner Makes New Confession in Taylor Case

Harry Fields Promises to Name Real Slayers if Promised Partial Immunity by Officials.

Detroit, Feb. 25.—Asserting he had previously given fictitious names in identifying the persons he claimed were implicated in the murder of William Desmond Taylor, Los Angeles film director, Harry M. Fields, held here awaiting sentence for forgery, told authorities today he would furnish information that would clear up the crime if promised partial immunity by the California officials.

"I expect to do a prison sentence for my part in this mess, but I don't want to hang," Fields was quoted as saying. Fields, subjected today to another cross-examination by Lieutenants of Police Martin and Sheriff Irving J. Coffin, made two changes in his story of the shooting of Taylor, but still insisted he drove the car used by the slayers and was paid \$1,000 for his part in the murder.

Woman Gives Signal. He said today, according to the investigators, that a prominent movie picture actress who was one of the quartet that planned the killing, preceded the other three participants to the Taylor home, with the understanding that she was to give the signal when the opportunity moment for the shooting arrived, and then escape.

When the car containing the Chinese, the white man and the woman, Fields is said to have declared the actress emerged from the house, and, standing in the shadow of the porch, waved a bag of candy. The two men immediately left the car, and a few seconds later Fields heard a shot, according to his purported statement. The men stepped from a window of the house and re-entered the car, the investigators said he told them. Meanwhile, the actress, who had given the signal, disappeared.

Changes Statement. Fields was previously said to have told officers that the actress implicated in the killing was not at the scene. After the shooting, Fields, it is claimed, says he drove back to the other three and received his money. He left Los Angeles that night, officers said that he told them, although he previously had stated that he had stayed two days.

When Fields was questioned as to his reason for giving fictitious names in describing the killing, officers said he told them, "they were probing me hard for names and I had to say something."

Fields is to be sentenced here next week on the forgery charge to which he recently pleaded guilty.

Thomas Jefferson Club Is Organized at Norfolk

Norfolk, Neb., Feb. 25.—(Special Telegram.)—Permanent organization of the Thomas Jefferson club was made here with an advisory committee of one woman in each precinct. Following are the permanent officers: E. B. Hansen, Meadow Grove, chairman; Frank Warner, Norfolk, secretary; C. J. Hulac, Norfolk, treasurer; directors, Halie Schmidt, Madison; Pat Stanton, Tilden; F. D. Conley, Madison; E. B. Hansen, Meadow Grove; I. I. Witt, Newman Grove; Oscar Sunderman, Madison.

Girl's Clothing Catches Fire; Burns May Be Fatal

Broken Bow, Neb., Feb. 25.—(Special.)—Caroline Cook, 15, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Cook, until recently a resident of the northwestern part of Gustar county, was fatally burned while trying to rekindle a fire with kerosene at the new home in Snider, Colo. The girl ran from the house, but was caught by her brother and thrown into an irrigation ditch nearby and the flames extinguished.

Sentenced for Robbery

Broken Bow, Neb., Feb. 25.—(Special.)—William Conrad, implicated in the Anderson jewelry store robbery last August, and who escaped and later was found at Sioux City, pleaded guilty to the charge of larceny, and was given from one to four years in the state reformatory by Judge Hostetter.

Third Party Organized in Douglas

Less Than 100 Gather at Cradle as Progressive Infant in Second District Is Born.

Soldier Bonus Discussed. The progressive party in Douglas county and the Second congressional district was organized yesterday afternoon at a meeting attended by less than 100 men and women in Labor temple.

Soldier bonus, vested interests, presidential primary, restoration of the government to the people, control of finance by the government, devaluation of Wall street, a military referendum, and conspiracy of the money interests were among the subjects discussed by the speakers and the attendants.

Favors Bonus Currency. A spirit exchange of opinion followed the presentation by Roy M. Harrop of a resolution that the convention go on record as favoring the issuance of currency from the United States treasury, which will be legal tender for all debts, public and private; and that each ex-service man who was in foreign service be paid \$1,000 bonus and each who served within this country shall be paid \$750 from the currency so issued.

Would Tax Profiteers. "We could take the money away from the war profiteers," suggested Rev. J. L. Beebe, pastor of the United Evangelical church. "If that cannot be done, then I believe the currency should be issued direct to the service men."

Several delegates suggested that it might be a difficult task to get the money from war profiteers. The meeting was called to order by J. H. Edmiston of North Platte, state chairman of the progressive party. For purposes of organizing the party in this congressional district, C. A. McDonald, C. E. Woodard, Daniel Leach, D. E. Tempin, James McSullivan, M. E. Heggarty, Mrs. Rhoda Bader and Mrs. Maude I. Lochray, were named as executive committee.

C. A. McDonald presided over the county organization and Mrs. Maude I. Lochray served as secretary-treasurer. The following committee was named to work out the details of a county organization, with five precincts: A. M. Tempin, Daniel Sullivan, C. E. Woodard, Peter Mehrens and Mrs. Myrtle Fries.

The county central committee was authorized to fill any vacancies which may occur in the county ticket, with the platform was adopted by the county and congressional organizations.

State Chairman Edmiston announced during the meeting that the call for funds resulted in a total of \$34 toward the state campaign fund.

Hope to Carry Omaha. During his brief talk Mr. Edmiston said: "It is important that our party shall carry Omaha."

"The most hopeful conditions imaginable exist," added the state chairman. "There is a deep-seated interest."

"The money power as a conspiracy against the life of the republic," was the subject considered by Rev. J. L. Beebe, for whom petitions were circulated in behalf of his candidacy as the progressive party nominee for congress in this district. Rev. Beebe asserted that since the foundation of this republic there has been a group of men opposed to free institutions and the constitutional rights of the people.

Minister Fears Monarchy. "This group," said the minister, "is determined to take the republic from the people and hand it over to (Turn to Page Two, Column Two.)"

WHERE TO FIND THE Big Features of THE SUNDAY BEE

Nebraska Farm News Page 9. Land Bank of Omaha Attains First Place Page 10. Society and News for Women Pages 1 to 4. Shopping With Polly Page 4. "The Progressives Here Below" Blue Ribbon short story by Elizabeth Jordan Page 5. "\$100,000 Reward," final installment of serial by Henry C. Rowland Page 6. "The Married Life of Helen and Warren" Page 7. For Live Boys of Omaha Page 7. Editorial Comment Page 8. Amusements Page 9, 10 and 11. "Happyland," for the children Page 11.

SPORTS NEWS AND FEATURES Pages 1, 2 and 3. Of Especial Interest to Motorists Page 4. Want Ads Pages 5, 6 and 7. Markets and Financial Page 9.

Well, Somebody Get a Toe Hold



Harding Favors Naval Strength of 80,000 or Over

President Attempts to Smooth Out Differences Existing Between Department and Members of Congress.

Washington, Feb. 25.—President Harding inaugurated an effort today to reconcile wide differences of opinion between the navy department and congress as to the size and cost of the navy for the next fiscal year.

At a White House conference with republican members of the house naval committee and Representative Mondell of Wyoming, the republican leader, the president, seeking to compromise what some members have described as "the extreme views," is said to have declared that with the size of the navy fixed by the arms conference, the total enlisted personnel ought not to be less than 80,000.

Secretary Denby, in outlining department needs to the committee, has insisted on an enlisted strength of 80,000 and the present officer personnel, including 540 members of the first class at Annapolis to be graduated June, chairman Butler and other members of the committee have insisted, however, that Mr. Denby's figures for an appropriation bill carrying a total of \$350,000,000 were too high, and reports have reached the president that a considerable number of house members were demanding a cut so sweeping that there might be funds enough in the new navy bill for only 60,000 men.

Stand Pat on Figures. In the face of determined opposition to his estimate, Mr. Denby and Admiral Coontz, chief of naval operations, announced that they stood pat on the figures. It was because of this situation that the president called in the republican committee with whom he conferred for an hour and a half in a general exchange of views.

The feeling prevailed in some quarters tonight that the president had hit upon an easy basis of compromise and had let it be known he would not approve a bill that might effectually "scrap" the navy below the arms conference point through failure to provide sufficient men to man the 18 battleships and other craft allotted the United States by international agreement.

As the real fight over the size and cost of the navy will be before the subcommittee on appropriations, of which Representative Kelley, republican, Michigan, is chairman, there (Turn to Page Two, Column Two.)

Italian Deputy Forms Cabinet

Nationalists and Fascisti Only Groups Not Represented in New Organization.

Rome, Feb. 25.—Deputy Facta has formed a new cabinet, a task assigned to him Thursday after King Emmanuel had been unsuccessful in his search for a leader willing to undertake the difficult assignment. As officially announced, the ministry will be constituted as follows:

Premier and minister of interior, minister of liberated provinces, Luigi Facta. Minister of foreign affairs, Signor Chanceri. Minister of navy, Roberta D. Vito.

Minister of war, Signor Amedeo. Minister of justice, Luigi Rossi. Minister of the treasury, Camillo Peano. Ministry of industry, Teofilo Rossi. Minister of public works, Signor Riccio. Minister of labor, Signor Deilo S. Barba. Minister of posts, Signor Di Cesaro. Minister of education, Antonio Anile. Minister of agriculture, Giovanni Bertini. Minister of finance, Signor Bertoni. Minister of the colonies, Signor Di Scala.

The new cabinet is a coalition of all the constitutional groups except the nationalist and fascisti. The adherents of ex-Premier Nitti are represented by Mendola, Nitti's followers are predominant, as, in addition to the Premier Facta, Golititi, is represented by Peno, for many years chief of cabinet and, also by Teofilo Rossi, one of his chief lieutenants.

The Catholics have the same number of portfolios as in the Bonino ministry, but their portfolios are of more importance, as they include those of construction, finance and agriculture.

Denver Judge Calls Upon Klan to Explain Threat

Denver, Feb. 25.—District Attorney Phillip S. Van Cise today called upon officers of the local branch of the Ku Klux Klan to explain a letter, purporting to be from that organization, threatening the life of Ward Gash, a negro, unless he left the city. Gash, a janitor, fled to Ogden, Utah, a few hours after receiving the letter several days ago.

Louisiana Minister Given Coat of Tar and Feathers

Lake Charles, La., Feb. 25.—A telephone message to the American Press this afternoon states that the Rev. W. E. Bennett was taken to the outskirts of Derrider this morning and tarred and feathered by masked men. Bennett is alleged to have deserted his family and to have broken jail in Mississippi some time ago.

Three Nebraska City Men File for City Commission

Nebraska City, Neb., Feb. 25.—(Special.)—Frank A. Bartling, member of the city commission; Theodore Webering, a baker, and John Sherwood, shoemaker, have filed for commissionships at the spring primary, March 24. Frank Thomas, mayor, and Bert Ryder, commissioner of streets, are expected to file within a few days.

"Settlement Day" Anticipated by Bankers of State

Less Hardship in Arranging Payments Predicted by Omaha War Finance Committee.

"Moving day" or "settlement day," as March 1 is known in the agricultural districts, has been anticipated fully by Nebraska bankers. At War Finance corporation headquarters in Omaha it is predicted that there will be less hardship in arranging payments than before.

Preliminary transactions with the farmers' local banks already have been carried out. Much of the heavy borrowing from the War Finance corporation has been in preparation for settlement last day, when payments are customarily made on farms that have been purchased and when tenants leave the farm or move to another. It is reported that many families who moved to town and rented their farms are now going back.

Loans of the War Finance corporation now exceed those of the federal reserve system in Nebraska. Rediscunts for 739 banks in this state with the War Finance agency have brought \$10,000,000 to Nebraska, with almost \$3,000,000 more approved by Omaha headquarters and awaiting action in Washington. The Federal Reserve loans total slightly less than \$9,000,000. Although there has been a full in requests for accommodation, the War Finance corporation is now preparing for heavier borrowing to finance the spring movement of cattle from southern ranges to the ranches in western Nebraska.

Two Youths Sentenced to Prison for Hog Stealing

Broken Bow, Neb., Feb. 25.—(Special.)—Ray Mattox and Jesse Stone, two young men from the Constock neighborhood, pleaded guilty before Judge Hostetter to stealing 17 hogs from Byron Glover. They were sentenced to the state reformatory for a term of one to five years.

Three other boys in the two families, Frank and Elmer Mattox and Ralph Stone, arrested later on the charge of hog stealing, have been bound over to the next term of district court.

Bankers of Three Counties Meet in North Platte

North Platte, Neb., Feb. 25.—(Special.)—Thirty officers and employees of banks in Lincoln, Keith and Logan counties held a conference in this city and discussed problems which confront them. Prior to the meeting the visitors were entertained at a dinner by the local bankers.

Candidate for Senate Will Withdraw From Race

Norfolk, Neb., Feb. 25.—(Special Telegram.)—George N. Beels, who filed for state senator from the Seventh district, announced here today that he would withdraw from the race because of business reasons. Beels is a republican.

Escape of Pierce May Cost Badge

Detective Calls Fogg Murder Witness Liar for Saying His Getaway Was Winked At.

Charges May Be Brought. "If Frank Pierce said he escaped with my permission at Kansas City, he is a liar and knows it," was the terse statement made by Detective Fred Franks Saturday night when told of a statement accredited to Pierce in Kansas City.

Pierce was rearrested Saturday by Kansas City police who said Pierce told them that Franks knew he was going to escape.

Dempsey Appears Impressed. Chief of Police Dempsey appeared to be very much impressed by the statement made by Pierce, but said he did not want to condemn Franks for the alleged act until he has completed the investigation.

"That puts Franks in bad," Chief Dempsey exclaimed when informed that Pierce had declared Franks released him, and "told him to go home."

"But I'm not through with the investigation," continued Chief Dempsey, "Don't quote me as condemning Franks until I have completed my correspondence with the chief at Kansas City."

Interviewers Sidestepped. Though officials sidestepped interviewers Saturday, and none wished to announce publicly what course would be followed, it was hinted that charges might be brought against Detective Franks. Such action would probably cost the officer his badge.

"If Officer Franks told Pierce he could go, he should be censured," Chief Dempsey said. "I have when informed of Pierce's statement. Pierce was arrested yesterday by two Kansas City detectives in the heart of Kansas City's business district. He was leaning against the doorway of a cheap hotel and made no resistance.

His first request was for dope. He received it. "How did you get away?" Chief of Detectives Walston of Kansas City asked.

A Different Story. "Franks told me I could go," said Pierce. "He said that Kansas City detectives didn't want me." The story told by Franks, however, is quite different. The detective declares Pierce slipped away while Franks was being shaved in a barber shop.

Walston on his point that he did not willingly permit Pierce to escape. Franks explained in his reports that Pierce had any number of opportunities to escape from him during the trip from Omaha to Kansas City.

Sticks to Story. "I had no papers giving me custody of Pierce," said Franks, "and he could have walked right out of my hands any time he wanted to." Franks sticks to his story that he turned Pierce over to Kansas City police, but that on Pierce's request Chief of Detectives Walston gave Pierce permission to spend the night as he pleased.

On the other hand, said Franks asked for Pierce's release for the night and guaranteed to return him in the morning.

Gus Hyers Reminisces. County Attorney Shotwell says he is satisfied Franks is guiltless. State Sheriff Gus Hyers, who was responsible for Pierce while in Nebraska, also is inclined to look askance at the Kansas City, Kan. 1 "I'm reminded of the Kansas City police in the Anthony case," he said. "Perry Anthony was indicted by the special grand jury here on charges of peddling worthless stock. He was arrested shortly before Christmas at Junction City, Kan. I wired the officers there to please take him as far as Kansas City and leave him with police there and I would send for him.

Caught in Winnipeg. "They did and I did. But my state agent, when he reached Kansas City and asked for Pierce was told that he had told the officers there such a straightforward story he had convinced them of his innocence and persuaded them to let him go to Lincoln alone.

"Why they had ever taken him from the police station to the Union station, where they saw him being taken to Lincoln, I don't know. I'm sure he would go to Lincoln.

"Well, I nabbed Perry myself in Winnipeg, Canada, some three weeks after that, just as a result of the 'courtney' of those Kansas City police."

Return of Skinner Firm Certificates Is Sought. A petition directing the Skinner Packing company and the United Specialties Construction company of Chicago to surrender certificates amounting to \$2,551.75 to Keith Neville, receiver for the Skinner company, and Frank H. Doernman, a stockholder, was filed in federal court yesterday. Judge J. W. Woodrough signed an order directing the United States National bank to hold the certificates until the court decides the matter. The defendants were given 20 days to file an answer. The Skinner company had issued the certificates to the United Specialties Construction company to settle a debt.

Rain Benefits Wheat. Recum, Neb., Feb. 25.—(Special.)—Johnson county farmers state that the inch of rain of Wednesday was very beneficial to the wheat. The crop is in good condition in this section.

The Weather

Forecast. Sunday fair; not much change in temperature. Hourly Temperature. 5 a. m. ... 17 1 p. m. ... 27 8 a. m. ... 16 2 p. m. ... 28 11 a. m. ... 15 3 p. m. ... 28 2 a. m. ... 16 4 p. m. ... 28 5 a. m. ... 16 5 p. m. ... 28 10 a. m. ... 17 6 p. m. ... 28 11 a. m. ... 17 7 p. m. ... 28 12 noon ... 18 8 p. m. ... 28